



March 5, 2013

Written testimony of Maritza DeFlorio, Regional Director of Finance for Transcon Builders LTC:

S.B. No. 1025 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO NURSING FACILITIES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE;

H.B. No. 6543 (RAISED) AN ACT AMELIORATING THE DEBT OWED TO NURSING FACILITIES.

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee.

My name is Maritza DeFlorio; I am the Regional Director of Finance for Transcon which owns and operates four Skilled Nursing Facilities in Connecticut. Candlewood, Greenwich, Hamden and Wilton Health Care Centers are longstanding quality providers of nursing and rehabilitation care in their respective communities.

- We care over 750 Connecticut's Elderly.
- We have a 1000 employees, nurses, certified aides, housekeepers, cooks, social workers, recreation assistants to care for our residents.
- Our centers are Silver and Bronze National Quality Award Recipients.
- We have \$1.2 million dollars outstanding in Medicaid Pending accounts in our 4 centers.
- Medicaid applications in our regions take an average of 6 months to a year before finalizing.
- We have \$756,000 in Private accounts outstanding including Applied Income that are not being paid by family members.

I am here to ask each member of the Human Services Committee to support these two very important bills being advanced by the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), of which our organization is a proud member.

S.B. No. 1025 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO NURSING FACILITIES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE;

This legislation will alleviate the burden placed upon CT Nursing Homes who experience excessive delays in Medicaid Pending approvals.

- Corrects the unfairness of nursing homes required to pay provider taxes, penalties, interest while no payments are being received.
- Modifies provider tax payment deadlines warranted by the Medicaid payment delays.
- At our facilities we have \$1.2 million dollars outstanding in Medicaid Pending accounts in our 4 centers.
- Medicaid applications in our regions take an average of 6 months to a year before finalizing.

H.B. No. 6543 (RAISED) AN ACT AMELIORATING THE DEBT OWED TO NURSING FACILITIES.

- Section 1 of this legislation addresses the difficulty nursing homes face when the resident or responsible party does not turn over the Applied Income. Will allow nursing homes to transfer or discharge residents who fail to pay applied income to the facility for more than sixty days. This adds muscle to the requirement already in place at DSS in order for the resident to share the cost of the care being paid for by the State of Connecticut. We have had cases closed because of the Applied Income not being turned over and making the resident over assets, we have also had to face many write offs due to the outstanding balances. This is a last resort action for a facility but will supply a necessary option for nursing homes.
- Section 2 of this legislation adds nursing homes to the current list of providers (hospitals, physicians and goods.) to Section 46b-37 in which it is the joint duty of spouses to pay for the above services or goods. It is imperative that Nursing Homes be added to this legislation in order to allow us to have the same rights afforded the State and the Spouses and families.
- At our facilities we have \$756,000 in Private accounts outstanding including Applied Income that are not being paid by spouses and or family members.
- The community spouse under current DSS policy in order to qualify an institutional spouse for Medicaid is allowed to keep \$109,000 in cash as well as the home they live in.
- If the resident and spouse do not qualify for Medicaid it is due to excess funds your support of H.B. No. 6543 is important to nursing homes to have the same rights to collect funds the same as hospitals, doctors, Sears, Ford all whom have joint duty of spouse's rights.

I would sincerely appreciate your support of these very important bills. There is a great opportunity to help us without putting additional burdens on our industry and the immensely important work we do.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Maritza DeFlorio". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Maritza DeFlorio

Regional Director of Finance

Transcon Builders LTC

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